

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

EYES ALONE

TO :

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DATE: 21 September 1949

FROM : Chief, Contact Branch

SUBJECT: Information on ex-King Zog

REFERENCE: (a) OO/C memorandum to OSO dated 19 September 1949

1. Supplementing Reference (a), attached is copy of report containing additional information on ex-King Zog obtained from Mr. Edgar M. Church. We believe this answers all of your questions.

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LYMAN/B. KIRKPATRICK

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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK

1. Mme de Strahl d'Ekna (in United States) - age 82, is living in the United States. Does not have much influence over King Zog but is continually scheming to get him and his wife, Geraldine, to come to the United States. She has a vivid imagination and has just written a book which she wants to sell to the movies. (See report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949; CD No. G 162 (Case 2860).)

Don't know who Strahl 2nd in command of Albanian JS but formerly with Canaris + Helldorf in July 1944 to be

2. Count Alexander de Villa - Egypt - Zog's black market operator. Nickname "Skander". Is reputed to have been brought into the court to entertain Geraldine while Zog was preoccupied with Zenida. He is half French and half Albanian; his father was an Albanian Minister to France. He is shrewd and an entirely crooked individual. In former years used to smuggle dope in a diplomatic pouch. Is a close friend of Farouk and is trying to arrange with him to get the rest of the U.S. \$450 thousand of Zog's gold out of Egypt. (See report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949; CD No. G 162 (Case 2860).)

*Still working for Germans
XX-9410
5 Sept 45*

3. Georges Gog - Is chief palace guard and runs Zog's palace police. Is also considered a security man. He is a clean-cut, good looking, military individual and relatively honest. Goes back and forth into Albania from Egypt and maintains contact with the underground.

~~A certain Gheorghe Gog is listed on a list of names representing the legionnaires in Rumania (or Iron Guard) who were arrested. This name appears on a list of students who were attending school in Germany. (See Report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949, CD No. G 162 (Case 2860). Reference is 62-7-2-1, pp. 15.~~

- ✓ Georges D. Gogh - Albanian diplomat carrying passport No. 5/1 issued at Cairo on 17 April 1949, arrived in Rome by air from Teheran on 11 July 1949 and took lodging at 23 Via Antonio Bosio. (See SO 27141 dated August 25, 1949.

4. Kemal Bey Messari (Egypt) - is the court chamberlain. Wears a monocle, likes sports clothes, and acts as a spy for Zog. (See Report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949, CD No. G 162 (Case 2860).

- ✓ However, may be identical with the Kemal Messare mentioned in RTI-722, of 20 September 1948, Exceeder/3, C-3, who is an Albanian reported to have accepted an invitation of King Zog's to join a committee under him in Egypt to function as kind of provisional government. Others include Mustafa Kroya, Dr. Kemal Yusufati, Musa Yuka and Colonel Hussein Selmani.

5. - Martini (perhaps Sotir) - Prime Minister and body guard to ex-King Zog. He supervises Zog's financial affairs. Martini seldom leaves his side and supervises all court business. (See report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949. CD No. G 162 (Case 2860).
 ✓ Also 2-7-1-19, p. 14; 2-7-1-13y, p. 9.

Is viewed with disfavor by some of his anti-Fascist countrymen as possible leader of Albanians in exile. Was in Cairo as of 9 December 1949.

- ✓ Document 2-7-1-19, p. 14. Sotir Martini's name appears on a list of Albanians in Egypt which were enclosed in a letter from Xheladin Nushi to a Mr. Miller.

Document X-2TS-51 (only states that Sotir Martini is a member of King Zog's entourage and that there isn't any more detailed info about him.

- ✓ J-114 consists of a letter ~~enclosed with a~~ from Sotir Martini transmitting a copy of the programme and Zog's guarantee of some sort.
- ✓ S-024-426 contains some info re a Sotir Martini, Minister of King Zog, in whose name in summer '47 telegraphed 10 Albanian emigres in Italy saying emigration to N.E. opened up for Albanian refugees. In June, also in Zog's name, sent letters nominating members of commission for emigration.
 PIRA-1169
 7 Aug 47
6. John Apponyi - Switzerland. Ex-King Zog's brother who is in a Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Sicily. (See report 00-B-8501-49, 30 September 1949. CD No. G 162 (Case 2860).
7. Countess Margaret Scherr-Thoss - United States. She is one of Geraldine's, ex-King Zog's wife, cousins and the daughter of Geraldine's foster mother, who is an American and of a good family. She was forced to commit suicide by the Gestapo in World War II. Margaret's father, Graf Scherr-Thoss, is German and was Chief of German Military Intelligence during World War I and is now living at Klagenfurt, Austria. Margaret is a fine girl but cannot help talking about everything she knows. Her brothers, both United States citizens are even more indiscreet. She is married to Edgar M. Church, a lawyer. He is an American citizen by birth, originally from Philadelphia.

Mr. Edgar M. Church - the husband of Countess Margaret Scherr-Thoss is an American citizen by birth, originally from Philadelphia. Studied French, Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, playwriting, history of drama, Constitutional History of England and American History for four years at Yale. Worked his way through Law School for three years. Took post-graduate course in law for LLM but did not finish as had to work for living. While in Law School took outside course in playwriting and history of Drama. Is to have written four plays that were unpublished. Is judged to be a hard worker, cooperative, willing and conscientious, easy to get along with. Is neat and presentable in appearance. No sign of nervousness. Seems to be a very good man but not classed in "creative-imaginative" bracket. Claims to know Switzerland well. Has travelled for pleasure in Italy, North Spain, England, Corsica. Claims to know French Riviera well. Speaks French good although not perfect. Also speaks fair German.

HX-763 5/18/46, page 6.
PE File 4194